

Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: LITGAZ ON "FREEDOM OF THE PRESS"

1. JULY 27 ISSUE OF LITERATURNAYA GAZETA PROMINENTLY FEATURES
RAMBLING HALF-PAGE ARTICLE BY PAPER'S NEW YORK
CORRESPONDENT IONA ANDRONOV, WHO PULLS TOGETHER WIDELY DISPARATE
BITS AND PIECES DESIGNED TO BEAR OUT WHAT HE CALLS "A WINGED PHRASE"
OF A.J. LIEBLING'S: "THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS BELONGS TO HIM WHO
OWNS THE PRESS." UNDER HEADLINE "KNIGHTS OF THE PEN, CLOAK AND
DAGGER." ANDRONOV LEADS OFF WITH MURDER OF PHOENIX INVESTIGATIVE
REPORTER DON BOLLES AND CITES SEVERAL ALLEGED CASES OF REPORTERS
BEING ORDERED OFF STORES WHICH OFFENDED PRIVATE INTERESTS OF THEIR
PAPERS' OWNERS AND/OR PUBLISHERS. BUT ARTICLE QUICKLY SLIPS INTO ONE
OF LITGAZ'S FAVORITE GROOVES: NEWS MEDIA AS COVER FOR AND AGENTS
OF CIA.

2. MOST OF ANDRONOV'S "INFORMATION," WHICH CENTERS LARGELY ON
SUPPOSED CBS COOPERATION WITH CIA AS WELL AS LONG AND POWERFUL
TENTACLES OF MAJOR NEWSPAPER AND BROADCAST EMPIRES, HAS ALREADY
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APPEARED IN SOVIET PRESS. THIS TIME, THOUGH, ANDRONOV DOES SEEM
TO TAKE SOME PAINS TO TRY TO ESTABLISH WHAT HE NO DOUBT SEES AS
INCRIMINATING LINKS BETWEEN CIA, CBS CHAIRMAN WILLIAM PALEY, FORMER
CBS AIDE SIG MIKKELSON, AND RFE/RL. HE ALSO CLAIMS THAT NEW YORK
TIMES PUBLISHER ARTHUR SULZBERGER HAS "CATAPULTED 'HIS PEOPLE'
INTO A MULTITUDE OF RELATED FIELDS -- FROM PUBLISHING AND BROAD-
CASTING TO FOREIGN POLICY PROPOGANDA AND DIPLOMACY." AS EVIDENCE,

ANDRONOV SAYS THAT SULZBERGER CLEVERLY "GAVE HIS COUSIN IN MARRIAGE TO THE RICH HEAD OF A NEW YORK RADIO STATION, RONALD STRAUS (SIC). THE LATTER COMPAIGNED LAST FALL FOR THE ELECTION OF JAMES CARTER, AFTER WHICH WASHINGTON DECIDED TO NAME STRAUS AS CHIEF OF THE VOICE OF

AMERICA." AS FURTHER PROOF OF SULZBERGER'S INFLUENCE, ANDRONOV MENTIONS RECENT NOMINATION OF NEW YORK TIMES EDITOR WILLIAM SHANNON AS AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND AND ELECTION OF FORMER UN AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SCRANTON TO TIMES BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3. ARTICLE WINDS UP SWINGING WILDLY AT NUMBER OF TARGETS: SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS JACK ANDERSON, WILLIAM BUCKLEY AND TOM BRADEN ARE ALL ACCUSED OF TIES WITH CIA, AS ARE BONNER DAY OF U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, ROBERT MEYERS OF NEW REPUBLIC, AND JUST ABOUT ENTIRE COPLEY NEWS SERVICE. "OTHERS," ANDRONOV INTONES, "ARE TAKEN ON AS CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS (IN THE GOVERNMENT) OBVIOUSLY BECAUSE OF THEIR DILIGENCE IN THE CAUSE OF ANTI-SOVIETISM, FOR INSTANCE JERROLD SCHECHTER, THE FORMER MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT OF TIME WHOM I MET IN THE WHITE HOUSE. NOW SUCH GENTLEMEN AS HE ARE INSPIRING THE PROPAGANDISTIC HULLABALLOO SURROUNDING THE OFFICIAL SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS." FORMER TELEVISION CORRESPONDENT SAM JAFFE AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATE WALTER FAUNTROY ARE BOTH QUOTED OFFERING GUESSES ON NUMBER OF CIA AGENTS EMPLOYED BY MEDIA. AND NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT MALCOLM BROWNE, IDENTIFIED AS "PRESENTLY ACCREDITED IN MOSCOW," IS CITED AS SAYING THAT "I DOUBT IF YOU COULD FIND ANY PROFESSIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CORRESPONDENT AMONG US WITHOUT CONNECTIONS WITH THE CIA." (INTERESTINGLY, ANDRONOV'S PIECE APPEARED JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER BROWNE, WHO SPENT THREE WEEKS IN MOSCOW FILLING IN FOR VACATIONING TIMES BUREAU CHIEF, RETURNED TO HIS PERMENENT ASSIGNMENT IN BELGRADE.)

4. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR ADDING STRAUS AND SHANNON TO AN OMINOUS NEW YORK TIMES CONSPIRACY, ANDRONOV TOUCHES NO REALLY NEW BASES IN HIS ARTICLE. IN COVERING GAMUT FROM CIA TO FLORIDA TELEVISION ANNOUNCER WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE ON AIR, WITH SOUPCON OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION ON HOW CORRUPT U.S. MEDIA CAN PRESUME TO LECTURE OTHERS ABOUT "MORALITY" AND "HUMAN RIGHTS," AUTHOR SEEMS INTENT ON PROVIDING SOVIET READERS WITH SUITABLY GLOOMY "DEFINITIVE" REPORT ON AMERICAN PRESS IN THIS ERA OF DRAFT BREZHNEV CONSTITUTION AND PRELIMINARIES TO BELGRADE CSCE FOLLOW-UP.
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